

LET US FOCUS ON THE PEOPLE'S BUSINESS

(Mr. FOLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, to refute the comments of the previous speaker suggesting we are captives of special interests, that we are not doing the people's work, I will beg to differ.

I see a lot of progress here. But I also see a lot of name calling that I think is unfortunate and unnecessary. Pointing fingers, trying to catch each other in scandal does not bring honor to this House. So they can give their statements and they can give their quotes and they can make soundbytes, but the American public are worried about health insurance. They are worried about gas prices. They are worried about our soldiers in Iraq. They are worried about terrorism. And we should be working on that as Democrats and Republicans. But, instead, we sit here and make accusation, innuendo and create diatribe. We are much better than that.

We had an emergency evacuation today. We are on pins and needles based on the real terrorist threat that exists, and we are just becoming name callers.

So I urge all of us, both sides, to take a moment, pause and honestly focus on the people's business, not on trying to score cheap political points.

IN SUPPORT OF MEDICARE FOR ALL

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend my remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. REHBERG). Without objection, the gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I want to agree with the gentleman from Florida that the American people are worried about many things including health care. And that is why I stand to ask the House for support on H.R. 676, a bill that will establish a U.S. national health insurance.

A Kaiser Foundation poll found that 64 percent of Americans favor expanding Medicare to all. The Deans of Harvard and Stanford Medical Schools, 13,000 doctors, including the former editor of the New England Journal of Medicine and two former Surgeons General now support Medicare for All.

By expanding Medicare to all, we will contain costs. Medicare boasts 3 percent overhead. In contrast, the Medicare HMOs, 15 to 30 percent overhead. Medicare also has a much lower rate of spending increase than private health plans.

Medicare for All will make the U.S. more competitive. GM and Ford are losing money in competitive advantage

because other developed countries have universal health care. Ontario now makes more cars than Detroit. Canadian GM, Ford and other auto manufacturers have sent a letter in support of their single-payer health care system as a result.

All over this country, Americans are looking for some help from the Congress of the United States on health care. It is time for us to come together, Democrats and Republicans alike, in defense of universal health care, Medicare for All.

HONORING MR. SANFORD WALKER, PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Sanford Walke of Hernando Beach, Florida. He was the chief engineer in the army during World War II, and Mr. Walke recently was a person to whom I presented the Purple Heart for his heroic actions in battle.

On a flight over Germany on July 8, 1944, Mr. Walke's plane was shot down over France. The last one to jump out of the plane, he was forced to open his parachute over enemy territory. He was then taken as a Prisoner of War and held in a German prison camp. He was put on long and arduous marches until he was able to escape with another British soldier months later. The two soldiers were hiding in a barn in a German village when the British tanks rolled in and took over the town. Thankfully, the British took care of him until he was able to reunite with his American soldier buddies.

Mr. Speaker, true American heroes like Sanford Walke should be honored for their service to our Nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle.

COMMENDING CAPITOL POLICE AND OTHER PERSONNEL FOR THEIR PROFESSIONALISM IN EVACUATION

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I want to, first of all, commend the Capitol Police and all the other personnel who did such a fantastic job when we had the evacuation earlier today.

It is never good, obviously, to have this kind of evacuation. But when we were kids in school, we had fire drills and things like that, and we wanted to see how well it was done. Today, it was done in a very professional way. And, thank God, it really was not a threat, but it is nice to know, when we need to leave, we can.

So I want to just take the time to thank the Capitol Police and to all the personnel who worked with us here in

making sure the evacuation was smooth and nobody was hurt. Responding to the threat and the threat over the aerospace was swift. And I think all of us as people who work at the Capitol can sleep a little better tonight knowing that our very highly trained personnel really had things under hand. It again shows the American public why we all need to be prepared for terrorism and why this is a new world, and I think that we are meeting the task. Again, I want to thank all those concerned.

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TIME TO PROVIDE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL AMERICANS

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Florida got up here and talked about the fact that we should work together as Democrats and Republicans. Let us have a little review of history, and I think the gentleman was here when it all happened.

In 1993 and 1994, President Clinton presented a health care plan for every American. The Republicans took the position that any plan run by the government was a bad one, and they took pride and bragged in the next election over the fact that they had killed the Clinton health care plan.

Now, 1994 is more than 10 years, and we have yet to see any proposal come out of the Republicans. Not a single member of the Republican caucus has been able to get a hearing or lay a bill before a committee. There are many of us who put bills before the Congress. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) put one forward, I put one forward, as did the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL).

Where are the Republican proposals to do anything about the American people's health care problem? It is the number one cause of bankruptcy. It is time.

MAKING AMERICA MORE COMPETITIVE

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, Yogi Berra said that predictions are hard to make, especially when they are about the future. But that does not mean we should not look ahead. In fact, if you do sit down and think about what America is going to be like 5, 10, 20 years from now and how our economy is going to be in relationship to the rest of the world, I think we should all be very concerned.

Right now, China is in the beginning stages of trying to start an Asian Union, much like the European Union,